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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

seal¹

PRONUNCIATION:  sēl

NOUN: **1a.** A die or signet having a raised or incised emblem used to stamp an impression on a receptive substance such as wax or lead. **b.** The impression so made. **c.** The design or emblem itself, belonging exclusively to the user: *a monarch's seal*. **d.** A small disk or wafer of wax, lead, or paper bearing such an imprint and affixed to a document to prove authenticity or to secure it. **2.** Something, such as a commercial hallmark, that authenticates, confirms, or attests. **3.** A substance, especially an adhesive agent such as wax or putty, used to close or secure something or to prevent seepage of moisture or air. **4.** A device that joins two systems or elements in such a way as to prevent leakage. **5a.** An airtight closure. **b.** A closure, as on a package, used to prove that the contents have not been tampered with. **6.** A small decorative paper sticker.

TRANSITIVE Inflected forms: **sealed**, **seal·ing**, **seals**

VERB: **1.** To affix a seal to in order to prove authenticity or attest to accuracy, legal weight, quality, or another standard. **2a.** To close with or as if with a seal. **b.** To close hermetically. **c.** To make fast or fill up, as with plaster or cement. **d.** To apply a waterproof coating to: *seal a blacktop driveway*. **3.** To grant, certify, or designate under seal or authority. **4.** To establish or determine irrevocably: *Our fate was sealed*. **5.** *Mormon Church* To make (a marriage, for example) binding for life; solemnize forever.

PHRASAL VERB: **seal off** To close tightly or surround with a barricade or cordon: *An unused wing of the hospital was sealed off.*

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English, from Old French *seel*, from Vulgar Latin **sigellum*,

